

## Exercise to Develop an Inventory of Needs and Resources\*

This is a simple, two-step method for creating inventories of needs and available resources.

- First, post large sheets of blank paper around the walls of a room, each one titled for a key type of housing or supportive service.
- Participants are given marker pens and asked to walk around the room and identify gaps in each type of housing or service. They should indicate:
  - 1) the number of units of housing or services needed, and, if possible,
  - 2) the specific sub-populations or geographic areas which are currently under-served.
- After all have finished, the facilitator reads off the results to generate further clarification of the information on the sheets.
- In a second round, another set of blank paper is posted around the room, one sheet for each key type of service or housing need/gap, as identified above.
- Participants are asked to walk around the room with their marker pens and respond to three questions regarding existing housing and services:
  - 1) Which agencies provide this type of housing and/or service?
  - 2) What is their capacity (# of beds, length of stay, treatment slots, etc.)?
  - 3) Who is the contact person and what is their telephone number?
- After all have finished, the facilitator reads off the results to generate further clarification of the information on the sheets.
- Both sets of sheets should be typed up for discussion at the next meeting. If necessary, Core Working Group members can make follow-up phone calls to the contacts listed to obtain more complete information and then synthesize the findings.

\*Taken from the Guidebook for Developing Local Continuum of Care Plans for Homeless People, Low Income Housing Institute, December 1996.